

CALIFORNIA HORSE RACING BOARD

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**Postmortem Examination Review Summary #008**

Horse Information: 7-year-old Thoroughbred.

Incident Summary: This horse sustained an injury on a turf course.

Necropsy Summary: Necropsy revealed multiple fractures of the left front fetlock. There was a closed, comminuted, lateral condylar fracture of the third metacarpus with a pre-existing subchondral osteopenic lesion at the fracture site. The medial proximal sesamoid bone had a closed, mid-body, comminuted fracture. The lateral proximal sesamoid bone had a closed, complete, axial avulsion fracture. There were multiple chip fractures at the margins of the proximal articular surface of the first phalanx. The right front fetlock had an incomplete lateral condylar fracture of the third metacarpus. Bilaterally, there was severe scoring of the articular surface of the distal metacarpus, proximal sesamoids, and the proximal articular surface of the first phalanx.

Racing/Training History: This horse had a lengthy and intense career. After a layoff due to surgery, the horse was placed in low level claiming races. The final trainer purchased the horse for \$1,500 and did not receive any medical history nor obtain radiographs of the distal limbs. In the previous 12 months, the horse accumulated 118 furlongs of racing and 88 furlongs of timed workouts for a total of 206 furlongs. There were 2 other seven-year-old horses in the same race. This horse sustained 26% more high speed furlongs over the previous 12 months prior to his catastrophic skeletal injury than the average of the 2 other seven-year-olds in the same race.

Veterinary History Summary: Several years prior to the fatal left front fetlock injury, this horse underwent surgical repair for a lateral condylar fracture in the right front fetlock joint. With the final trainer the pre-race medication routine entailed a systemic corticosteroid 3 days pre-race then phenylbutazone, methocarbamol and intravenous fluids with DMSO 2 days pre-race.

Pre-race Examinations: N/A

Conclusion: This horse had bilateral severe degenerative joint disease of the front fetlocks. These lesions and fractures are the result of repetitive overuse and excessive high-speed exercise.